

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

F-8848

Ser. No. 10/551,160

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and a device for detecting, determining and documenting damage to painted surfaces, especially parts of the bodywork of vehicles, utilizes light from at least one heavily focusing light source directed to a test surface in a grid-type or raster-type manner to produce a surface image on a screen with the light reflected on the test surface of the vehicle, the image being detected by a capturing, evaluating and signal processing device. The surface damage therein is then determined according to a specific evaluation algorithm and outputted for objective documentation of the damage. Results are achieved by coordinated, controlled displacement and/or pivoting between the light source and screen and by means of a rotational and/or displacement and or pivoting movement of the vehicle, which is controlled in accordance with the displacement and/or pivoting, around or along the longitudinal and/or vertical axis thereof inside a load-bearing structure, wherein the respective surface area to be sensed is brought towards the light source in the reflection position and the screen and the capturing device are brought towards the reflected light in an imaging position and the movements of the light source, screen, capturing device and vehicle are controlled by a processor unit.